Demand of Farmers for Cheap Transport

1924. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plan to provide refrigerated bogies to farmers to bring their produce to cities;

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to move with speed to meet demand of farmers for better transport;

(c) whether any meeting have been held with traders across the country to establish close links; and

(d) the full details of steps being taken by Government to provide rapid and cheap transport for farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. A total of 10 Refrigerated Vans have been introduced so far on Indian Railways for transportation of perishable commodities, including fruits, vegetables, frozen foods etc.

(b) Refrigerated Vans (VPRs) are attached to long distance Mail/ Express trains for faster movement of these commodities.

(c) and (d) Efforts are being made by zonal railways to publicise this new service by indian Railways through advertisements in newspapers and holding meetings with traders.

Rail Projects In Orissa

1925. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that development of rail-network in Orissa has been neglected as compared to its neighbouring States, West Bengal, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that fund allocation for East Coast Railway projects is abysmal which is delaying completion of the projects;

(c) whether a request has been received from the State for grant of adequate funds for speedy completion of the existing and new projects; and